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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1987

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from the editor . . .

Institutional Evaluation

The External Audit Team's report is not yet available, so perhaps this is premature.

But on the current evidence, Alan Davis and the Institutional Evaluation Steering Committee should be congratulated on their fine work.

Their report states clearly much that has been said in halls, offices, and lounges over the last few years and should be enormously useful as a guide to changes that will make the College a better place to work and study.

Their work must be seen as a model of responsiveness to the views of all sectors of the College.

NO SMOKING!

The College Board has enshrined in policy the holy war against smoking by a minority of College employees.

The Board decided not to install air cleaning devices that would have cost an 'estimated' \$10,000 for each of Chilliwack and Abbotsford. These devices are 'necessary' because, apparently, the air circulation systems simply move air from one part of the campus to another.

The supposed problem of recirculated air seems to be based on how the system operates in theory since it does not take into account areas with opening windows, as in some Abbotsford faculty offices or areas where there is no recirculation of air, such as my Chilliwack office.

It would be interesting to see a study of the actual ingredients of the air recirculated by the systems. If smoke is such a problem, what else is recirculated by our 'ventilation' systems? There's an item for the health and safety committee.

Is this more evidence about the Board's commitment to making the College a good place to work: if it costs money, don't do it? Or perhaps they are just saving money for our salary increase this year?

Sadly, CAC Chair Tom Davis echoed the Board's apparent reasoning: "Anyone would have a hard time justifying money being spent on smoking areas when, in a time of restraint, there is not enough room for classes. I feel that to allocate funds in this area, when we could be using them for instruction and classrooms, is the wrong direction to take." (The Chilliwack Progress, April 15, 1987)

Each year, the Board uses the same reasoning to justify denying us a decent salary increase and trying to increase our workloads: do they care only about squeezing more work out of us for less pay under worse working conditions?

The CAC should next consider converting all employee lounges into classrooms, and scrapping grounds maintenance. Who needs lounges or the pleasant surroundings of flowers and trees when the money could be spent on classrooms?

Bennett III

When will we learn that a Socred is a Socred is a Socred?

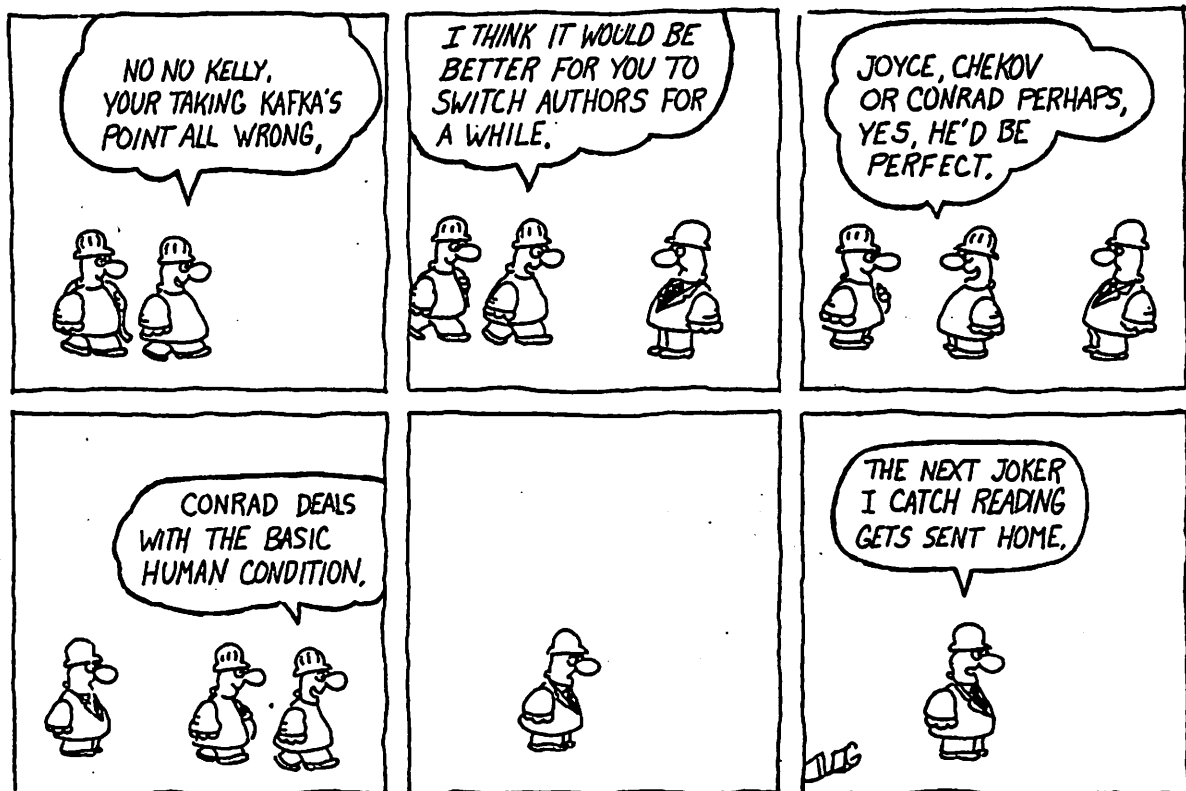
No matter what they say before an election, we know what they will do after it.

After the Socred budget, if you earn more than \$180,000 a year, then you will pay \$50 less tax. But the average household will pay \$566 more tax per year.

And under questioning, the Minister of Labour admits he doesn't know quite what the new labour legislation says. But the Premier knows that it expresses unalterable Socred 'philosophy'.

Yup.

—Paul Illig, Steelworker Cartoons, 1982



VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM CAC...Judy Inouye

Principal's Report

- * Board Meeting
 - Sexual Harrassment Policy approved
 - Susan Witter, Frank Dolman and Tim Segger made a presentation on the Canadian Job Strategy Program and provided information on the three-year contract with Corrections Service Canada. Integration of CJS and CSC programs with regular College programs was discussed.
- * Schools Liaison Committee meeting held. No major problems reported between College and School District.
- * SAC for Principal appointed.

Sexual Harrassment Policy

The Sexual Harrassment Policy was given Board approval at it's March meeting.

Union members as complainants are not covered by this policy but are referred to Contract Clause 1.3(d) which provides recourse through the grievance procedure to violations of members' statutory rights. If it is felt that protection under this general clause is inadequate, we should try again for more specific contract language through next year's negotiations.

The policy provides for the formation of a committee to investigate complaints. In cases in which the accused is a Union member, Union representatives cannot serve on this Committee as disciplinary procedures arising out of the Committee's findings may result in grievances and the Union cannot grieve against its own recommendations.

Employment of Relatives Policy

Since the policy proposal was first presented to CAC a number of months ago, your union reps. have been attempting to have it withdrawn altogether, or failing that, to have it restricted to SACs, evaluation and discipline procedures. Restrictions on hiring as it relates to Union members were pointed out as being in contravention of the Contract and unacceptable to the FSA. The final revision which was passed by CAC on second reading at its last meeting makes reference to

CAC Report (Contd.)

hiring only in very general terms, stating that "judgement will be used in the placement of employees who are directly related". All specific references to restriction on hiring have been deleted.

Smoking Policy

The Smoking Policy which was passed on second reading at the February CAC meeting and referred to the Board for approval was sent back by the EPC (Board Committee) to CAC for reconsideration. The Board, having received a petition signed by 38 employees requesting reconsideration of the policy, felt that the Policy might be too drastic. Management has costed a number of alternatives for separately vented areas which would permit smoking in designated areas while ensuring smoke-free environments within the College. These alternatives and the original CAC recommendation were referred back to the Board for their consideration. Smoking in designated areas without alteration to the ventilation system would not allow for any smoke-free area within the College as up to 80% of internal air is mixed and recirculated. Although CAC views the ideal solution as one which accommodates the wishes of both smokers and non-smokers, if such a solution is not possible because of lack of funding, CAC has no alternative but to recommend a total ban.

CAC recognized that there was a failure during the opinion gathering process to communicate adequate information on the effects of the diffusion of side-stream smoke from designated areas into the non-smoking areas and, had this been done, there might have been less conflict over the policy.

The Board considered the alternatives at its last meeting and concluded that, during these times of financial difficulty, scarce funds could not be allocated to a renovation of the ventilation system. The Board, therefore, adopted a policy for a total ban on smoking within the College premises. The Policy will become effective August 1, 1987.

...Judy Inouye

THE ZALMER'S VISIT...

On Friday, April 10th, Premier VanderZalm visited the College and was greeted by approximately 200 people who filled the largest classroom in the new Agriculture building. It was interesting to see that the Premier's style was totally congruent with that of his television spots. Lots of smiles and processed phrases (like Velveeta cheese) that presented the audience with a smooth semi-gloss not unlike a display window in a trendy boutique.

In his opening remarks the Premier referred to our new Agriculture facility as an example of his government's intention to increase support to post-secondary education to help promote new economic activity that would free us from our dependence on primary industries. This was the closest he came to making comments of any real substance as his second major message was to indicate that he (and his government) invite questions, concerns and "input" from all B.C. residents and welcome hearing from those who disagree as well as from those that agree with his government's policies.

During the question period one faculty member took note of the Premier's statement regarding an increased commitment to post-secondary education and asked whether or not the government would consider having at least some elected College Board members. It became apparent from VanderZalm's answer that despite the fact that he was once Education Minister (when Colleges were in that Ministry) he didn't know that one half of College Board members were at one time elected to School Boards and then designated for College Board membership. He spoke about the impracticality of ever being able to have elected Board members. He indicated that his government appoints people known to them and would pay attention to College recommendations. Before his lack of information became too apparent, Dr. Moore gracefully rescued him by whispering that college Boards were in part elected before the "Restraint" period.

A member of the native community asked what form the Government's commitment to native self-government would take since the ground seems to be ever shifting in this area. VanderZalm's first response was that it was a federal question, (meaning that he and other premiers have no part in determining national policy?). He then fell back on the Government's recent dealings with the Sechelt band as a model of what might be arranged with other native groups apparently on a one-by-one ad hoc basis without any known consistent or publically defined set of guide-lines and principles. The Premier also spoke of his visit to the Kingcome community where things were "well cared for" and implied it was an example for other native communities

The Zalmer's Visit (Contd.)

to follow in their steps towards self reliance.

A college faculty member who had done his homework presented VanderZalm with a list of funding inequities with regard to the Abbotsford School District and asked if VanderZalm's latest rejection of the School Board's appeal was his final word. For this well researched and well phrased question the questioner received a deserved applause. The Premier first observed that Abbotsford's present property taxes were near the lowest in the Province thus implying the community could afford to do more to support education. This assumes that the higher revenues received in other communities go to education. Most other communities of Abbotsford's size have superior parks and recreation facilities, neither Abbotsford nor the Matsqui District offer much to residents in this regard. VanderZalm did indicate, however, that as of noon of that very day he had agreed to another meeting with the Abbotsford School District.

Finally, another College employee asked why, given the Premier's spoken commitment to consultation, none had taken place with labour prior to the introduction of Bills 19 and 20. VanderZalm indicated that his government had sent letters to "all" labour groups soliciting their input. He also said the legislation would get complete discussion if the opposition would let it get to its third reading. In fact VanderZalm's government did send letters to labour groups but the legislation was introduced before the groups had sufficient time to reply. The government also met with business and administrative associations (such as the B.C. School Trustees) but did not meet with one labour group as part of the consultation process. For this response the Premier received an applause that was initiated by another College employee.

In retrospect, I believe the Premier's visit was a worthwhile experience from both the College's viewpoint and that of an individual citizen. It could be said that only lip service was paid to support for education and other issues. I believe however that "lip service" done in a public forum adds to the political process and can be used as a yard stick against which to measure government performance. Our previous Premier didn't even offer lip service to education and spoke only in terms of efficiency and "cutting out the fat". Adopting the most cynical viewpoint one can record lip service statements to be used against one's opponent later. Bennett was less generous in offering such ammunition.

As I write this I'm aware that most readers were not present

The Zalmer's Visit (Contd.)

for the Premier's forum. While it is difficult to endure an hour of the Premier's soft core TV evangelist style and there is little chance that what is said will have any direct impact on government policy, I believe it is important to question the Premier and other government officials in any and all possible forums. We have been largely cut off from the formal means of public debate by a majority government that calls the legislature into session as little as possible. We must take advantage of such forums to utilize them to air issues that might otherwise be buried in cabinet closed-door discussions. I find the passive avoidance of such public debate simply because one finds the opponent offensive or because one thinks it to be a waste of time a very Canadian way of approaching politics.

...Anonymous



"Poor Harvey. He can't sleep nights on account of thinking up wage-cuts."

-New Masses, 1935

Brief Minutes

FSA Executive, April 8, 1987

Principal's Report

College appears to get 5.8% budget increase, including 3% for inflation. Program profile increased from 520 to 550 students. Some items included in last budget not funded in this, so 5.8% not quite accurate. Operating capital budget is better, and there may be money from 'Excellence Fund', Job Track.

FVC Chief Executive Officer will again be called 'President'.

FSA may want to make submissions on Open Learning Agency and Continuing Education funding

Dr. Moore donated copy of Frank Beinder's book on community colleges to the FSA.

President's Report

Received invitation to Alberta College/Institutes Faculties Association Spring Conference. CIEA will attend.

Agreed not to have an FSA representative question the Premier at his Chilliwack appearance.

In response to questions from the Board at its last meeting, President said new labour legislation is adversarial.

Executive agreed to a gift for Dr. Moore.

Dues for 1987-88

Executive agreed to recommend returning to the same straight percentage for all faculty and staff.

Executive agreed to recommend a balanced budget with dues at not more than 1.3% of gross salary. Highest priority shall be given to retaining present release time.

Executive Meeting, April 14, 1987

While minutes are not yet out for this meeting, here are unofficial highlights.

Met with John Potts and Don Tunstall about IMAC report. Comments will be sent to Scott Fast and Virginia Cooke. Subcommittee will issue report to members with covering letter.

Constitutional changes were discussed - see report elsewhere in Newsletter.

Final details on budget and dues were approved.

Executive approved recommending campaign to organize part-timers.

The Provincial

**STOP
BILL 19
ISSUE**

Do you support our union's opposition to Bill 19 including a boycott of the legislation?

YES ☒

NO ☐

On April 15 you will be given this ballot to register your vote on Bill 19.

President's Message

New Anti-Labour Laws Hurt Every Union Member

B.C.'s new anti-labour legislation seriously undermines the fundamental purpose of a trade union - to provide protection for union members. The degree of protection a union can provide is defined in the collective agreement negotiated between the union and the employer at the bargaining table. The collective agreement provides union members with job security, wage increases, protection against discrimination, harassment and unfair treatment by the employer. Members of the BCGEU won the right to bargain collectively in 1974 and we have considered it our democratic right since then.

Bill 19 would turn the clock back 13 years for BCGEU members and destroy your right to bargain collectively. It would leave workers at the mercy of an employer who has no sympathy for the rights of workers.

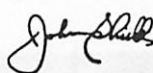
Ed Peck, the head of the new Industrial Relations Council, would have the power to control the entire collective bargaining process. Peck, who as Compensation Stabilization Commissioner for the past five years kept the wages of government workers the lowest in Canada, would still have the power to keep the wages of public sector workers down since provisions of the CSP are included in the new legislation. BCGEU members would also lose the right to strike because we would have to get permission from Peck who could say no if he thought the public wouldn't like it. Peck could also define the terms of a collective agreement and force you to vote on them while withholding your right to strike and limiting your wage increase at the same time.

Bill 19 is the last in a series of assaults on BCGEU members that began in 1982 with the CSP which saw the wages of our members fall 15 per cent behind inflation by 1986. Bill Bennett's restraint budget of 1983 caused 11,000 government workers to lose their jobs. In July, 1986 Bennett threatened to take away our right to strike through special legislation. Now Premier Vander Zalm is still not satisfied that government workers have suffered enough. He has brought down legislation that will guarantee workers have no rights at all.

The changes to the province's labour laws will continue the confrontation of the Bennett era, and deny all workers their democratic rights as union members. What we are seeing is unprecedented heavy-handed state intervention in a democratic society. The result can only be a further erosion of social and economic stability in our province.

I strongly urge you to vote against the legislation so we can stop Bill 19 from ever becoming law in B.C.

In solidarity



John T. Shields
President

Protect Your Rights!

Labour Movement Unites To Stop Socred's Bill 19

The BCGEU and other affiliates of the B.C. Federation of Labour have joined forces to mobilize opposition to the Social Credit government's new Industrial Relations Reform Act (Bill 19) which establishes a powerful new agency governing all labour matters under B.C. labour jurisdiction.

The new agency called the Industrial Relations Council is headed by former Compensation Stabilization Program (CSP) Commissioner Ed Peck who has the power to order votes on employer offers, ends to strikes and lockouts, establish Public Interest Review Boards, and to order votes on settlements recommended by the review boards.

"Bill 19 in one broad sweep establishes a bureaucratic agency which places in one person's hands dictatorial powers to totally replace the free collective bargaining process," says BCGEU President John Shields.

Peck and the new Industrial Relations Council have replaced the B.C. Labour Relations Board, taken over the Mediation Services Branch, and assumed the functions of the Compensation Stabilization Program.

"If passed, Bill 19 would impose a new era of third party intervention on all labour relations matters and would strip from trade unions most of the rights to protect employees on the job that we have struggled for and won over the past 20 years," says Shields. "The legislation would damage the labour movement beyond recognition and leave trade union members at the mercy of a government that places no value on the rights of working people."

The new legislation came as a shock to the B.C. labour movement. "We are deeply disappointed," says B.C. Federation of Labour President Ken Georgetti. "Premier Vander Zalm had a unique opportunity, as part of his promised fresh start, to make changes that would foster a positive climate of industrial relations in B.C."

The Federation's Executive Council on April 6 adopted a program of action which calls on unions to take a two-part vote which will ask members, firstly, to reject Bill 19 telling the government it is unacceptable, and, secondly, to tell their union not to cooperate with third party interventions by the new Industrial Relations Council.

The program also calls on the government to halt all proceedings on the legislation, and to establish a tour of Federation officers to meet with local politicians, union members, community groups, and media around the province to explain the impact of the legislation, and labour's opposition to it.

The Federation will also meet with the B.C. Business Council and other business organizations to ask for support in opposing legislation which can only worsen the province's industrial relations climate at a time when the province needs to attract new investment.

"Bill 19 made a mockery of Premier Vander Zalm's promised consultative process," says Shields. "The Premier has ignored virtually all of the recommendations made by unions and their members during the public hearings earlier this year on labour legislation."

"The government is dropping the old CSP, as we asked, but Ed Peck as boss of the new Industrial Relations Council still has most of the powers he had before under the CSP to intervene in public sector bargaining."

"What I find particularly objectionable is that under the new legislation 'ability to pay' must still be the paramount factor in public sector bargaining. The definition of ability to pay has even been changed in favour of the employer and has now become a permanent criteria for resolving public sector bargaining disputes."

"Our Union and our members must do everything in our power now to show the government that this legislation is completely unacceptable and to pressure the government to change or withdraw the legislation no matter how long it takes."

PHOTO: Kase Williams



B.C. Federation of Labour Executive vows to join forces to stop Bill 19.

Bill 19: HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS

Your Existing Rights

- The Labour Code gave the LRB (and us) the mandate to develop effective industrial relations in the interest of achieving and maintaining good working conditions. The well being of the public was a factor, however, this did not take away the rights of all of us to bargain for a fair settlement without the threat of uninvited intervention.
- The old LRB Chairperson could assist us in bargaining but did not have the right to bring a halt to our negotiations. At no time could he take away our right to strike (or the employer's right to lock out).
- Before Bill 19, the Cabinet had to go through the democratic process of bringing in special legislation to end a strike or lockout. That democracy is gone.
- The old Compensation Stabilization Act severely limited our public sector workers' right to a fair wage increase. We in the public sector fell further and further behind the cost of living. The old CSP Act is not gone - it has just been rolled into Bill 19.
- The old CSP Commissioner was Ed Peck. He ruled on the employer's ability to pay a wage increase to us.
- Under the old Essential Services Disputes Act, only a restricted number of our union members could ever be declared "essential" and be subject to a "cooling off" period in a labour dispute.
- When the employer used to make offers to your bargaining committees, your elected representatives decided whether the offer was suitable to take back to you to vote upon. People who were members of the Union got to decide whether the offer should be accepted or not.
- There was no such thing as compulsory arbitration.
- Collective bargaining used to be a process which took place between us and employers. The LRB established the rules of fair play to guide us.
- When our employers' businesses changed hands or when the government "privatized" some of its public services, we were still able to keep our Union and our collective agreement in the vast majority of cases.

Your Reduced Rights Under Bill 19

- Free collective bargaining is only to be preserved to the extent that it doesn't disrupt "the public interest" and the economy. The government will define what is in the public interest now, and may impose a settlement that it says is in the public interest.
- The new IRC Commissioner, Ed Peck, appointed by the Sacred Cabinet, has the power to intervene at virtually any time during the negotiating process and can bring free collective bargaining to a halt. He can take away our right to strike.
- The new Bill entrenches the right for the Cabinet to become involved in any dispute. They can become directly involved in any set of negotiations. They can remove our right to strike at any time now.
- The old rules of the Compensation Stabilization Program are here to stay forever. Now, all of us who are in the Public Sector will be subject to the employer's "ability to pay" if we ask for a fair wage increase. The new Act greatly widens the opportunity for our employers to say that they have no ability to pay and stop us from getting a decent settlement.
- The new IRC Commissioner will rule on the employer's ability to pay a wage increase to us. The new IRC Commissioner is Ed Peck.
- Under the new Bill 19, all public sector and private sector workers can be declared essential and have a 40 day cooling off period imposed on them during a dispute. The test for determining what is essential has been broadened substantially to favour employers.

This new section is just another method by which Ed Peck can remove our right to bargain fairly and freely.
- The new Bill 19 allows the **employer to compel** the Union to conduct a vote on the last employer offer. Also, Ed Peck himself can order votes on employer offers.

The new Bill 19 also allows any employee, whether a Union member or not, to vote on such offers.

Potentially, strike breakers hired while we're on the picket line will now have the right to vote on our contracts.
- The Cabinet can now order that any dispute be settled by compulsory arbitration.

This is one more way that our right to free collective bargaining as well as our right to strike is being taken away.
- Now, there will be outsiders involved in our negotiations at almost every step of the way. The IRC Commissioner can bring in people who know nothing about our situation but who have been selected by Mr. Peck to represent the "public interest". They carry the power to end our dispute and to make us vote on their recommendations for settlement.
- The new legislation now really limits the right of unionized workers to keep their contract and the right to bargain if their employer is changed (even though it may mean that we're doing the same job in the same way we did under our old employer).



Vote April 15 - Protect Your Rights - Stop Bill 19

News Briefs

Yea, Tighten That Belt

Top Canadian executives enjoyed average increases of 10.4% in 1986, more than twice the rate of inflation, says a Financial Times of Canada survey of 38 companies.

When one-time bonuses such as awards and profits from stock options are taken into account, the executives received an average 1986 increase of 19.7% - more than three times their previous year's gain of 6.1%.

Unions negotiated average wage gains of 3.4% in 1986 - labour's lowest increase in 19 years.

- The Vancouver Sun, April 13, 1987

Some choice ones:

1986 compensation including salaries, directors' fees, bonuses, perquisites like company cars and club memberships, and stock options. Figures are after tax and before extraordinary items.

President, Alcan Aluminum, \$1,157,958 - 64% increase

President, Canadian Pacific \$667,418 - 21% increase (company had net loss of \$80.3 million on sales of \$15 billion)

Imperial Oil

Chairman, President	\$727,142 - 20% increase	President	\$587,347 - 32% increase
Vice President	509,511 - 23% increase	Vice President	745,575 - 20% increase

MacMillan Bloedel

President	\$450,000 - 79% increase	Executive VP	\$340,623 - 94% increase
Senior VP	356,668 - 832% increase	Senior VP	262,051 - 66% increase

(Remember how tough it is in forestry - gotta get those unions under control to make an honest buck.)

- The Vancouver Sun, April 14, 1987

B.C.'s New Labour Law Solves a Problem that Doesn't Exist

Between 1973 and 1982, only 1.7 days were lost per union member per year in industrial disputes in B.C. In Ontario, two days were lost, while in Quebec the rate was 3.2.

Almost 75% of all person-days lost in strikes in B.C. from 1973-1982 were in just three industries: construction, lumber, and pulp and paper. Hence other industries, in particular secondary manufacturing and services, have been comparatively strike-free.

In July 1986 average weekly earnings in secondary manufacturing in B.C. were \$518.14; in Ontario they were \$518.85. In the service sector they were \$400.31 in B.C., \$409.20 in Ontario. In construction B.C. earnings were \$502.60; Ontario earnings were \$526.99.

B.C. workers earn more than their Ontario counterparts only in logging, mining, lumber, and pulp and paper. B.C. earnings have run 10 to 25% higher than Ontario workers for most of this century. These industries account for only 13% of B.C. workers.

The relatively high wages of workers in these industries do not lower B.C.'s provincial income. In 1979, B.C.'s timber harvest reached 75 million cubic metres, the limit for sustained yield management. Since then, the output of lumber, pulp, and paper has been limited by the allowable cut. Even if wages were lower, production could not be increased since there are no more trees to cut down.

The new labour legislation will not solve the problem because there is no problem to solve. Moreover, the revisions are so contentious that they may poison our relatively good strike record.

- adapted from an article by Robert C. Allen, professor of economics at UBC,
The Vancouver Sun, April 10, 1987

Sure they want peace with labour!

In July 1984, the Labour Relations Board granted employers the right to unilaterally change employment conditions after a collective agreement expires and before a new contract is negotiated. The ruling became known as the Paccar decision after the name of the parts distribution company that sought the ruling.

The decision was appealed to the B.C. Supreme Court where it was overturned, and then to the B.C. Court of Appeal, which upheld the Supreme Court.

The case is now being appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. Picking up the costs of the appeal are MacMillan Bloedel, the 80 forest employers members of the Forest Industrial Relations bargaining unit, and the 14 members of the Pulp and Paper Industrial Relations Bureaus, among others.

- from The Vancouver Sun, March 28, 1987

MAY DAY!

On May 1, 1986, some 350,000 workers across North America took to the bricks to agitate for an eight-hour work day. Included were 40,000 in Chicago, who a few days later would be involved in one of the most notorious events in working class history - the Haymarket riot.

The push for an eight-hour day was considered extremely radical at the time. Newspapers and other spokesmen for the employers mailed that the eight hour day was 'communism, lurid and rampant,' that it would encourage 'loafing and gambling, rioting, debauchery, and drunkenness,' and would only bring lower wages, more poverty and social degradation for workers.'

In Chicago for several weeks before the May 1 demonstration, the lumber shavers at the McCormick Harvester Works had been locked out and replaced by strikebreakers. On the evening of May 3, as the locked out workers held a rally outside the plant, the shift changed and the scabs filed out of the plant. A scuffle broke out, and in the midst of it the police arrived, literally with guns a-blazing. Four workers were killed and many others injured. A meeting of workers was called for the following evening, May 4, in Haymarket Square.

At the meeting, about 3,000 workers and their families listened to speeches, all urging them to continue their strike for the eight-hour day and warning them against violence. The Chicago mayor was in the crowd, left, and told the local precinct that there was no problem and special police reinforcements were to be sent home. The police captain, however, sent 180 police to march on the demonstration.

During the ensuing confrontation, a bomb was thrown into police ranks killing one policeman instantly and mortally wounding several others. The police then fired indiscriminately into the crowd, killing about ten and wounding 200 others.

Eight labour leaders were tried for murdering the policeman. At the time the bomb was thrown, only one was present, and he was speaking. The jury decided the eight were guilty of murder since the bomb thrower was influenced by their speeches. Four were hanged, one committed suicide or was murdered in prison, two received life sentences (later commuted) and one got a 15 year sentence.

It appears that the May 1 strikes did help reduce the working hours of many workers, giving workers around the world one day that belongs to them.

- from Radio Waves, May 1986

What Kind of Arts?

A memo to Malaapina College Board about naming of divisions. From Melpractice.

Why "liberal arts"? Why not, as in the universities, simply "arts"?

While it is true that an arts education results in a more liberal mind, it is also and equally true that we in Arts are engaged in the conservation of tradition. Why not, then conservative arts?

Perhaps an even better argument can be made for Social Credit Arts. An arts education does definitely add credit to one's social status. A person who knows, for example, that Yeats was a poet, an Irish poet, the author of "Second Coming", the poem which concludes with the question: What crude beast shuffles toward Bethlehem to be born? - that person is honoured by others who didn't know it.

The more one reflects on it, the more obvious it seems that the most basic value of getting an arts education is to display to others that one has the means and the security to be able to pursue frivolous facts, thereby demonstrating one's social superiority and enhancing one's social credit.

Liberalism is on the wane, so a liberal arts is passé. Our traditions, with computer technology, can be preserved in the museum of the micro-chip, making our function as conservers of tradition redundant. But one can never get enough social credit.

Social Credit Arts is definitely the most fitting label. Unfortunately, because our reigning political party also goes by that title, the college in so naming our Arts Division might be misperceived as practicing political favouritism, or worse, as pandering for political favour, and that is simply bad P.R.

So, why not simply "Arts"?



Newsletter Evaluation

There will be a new Communications Chair for 1987-88, so here's your chance to say what you have liked about past Newsletter and would like to see in future ones.

Each Newsletter has reports from FSA officers. President, Vice-Presidents, Contract, Grievance, and Communication report in almost every issue, PD and JCAC occasionally. Do these reports keep you well informed about FSA issues and affairs?

Are the reports on DAC and the Brief Minutes from FSA Executive meetings useful?

Are the News Briefs, Current Disputes, and reprints from other labour publications useful for coverage of labour issues in B.C. and Canada?

Are the occasional feature articles - such as on sexual harrasment, US trends - informative?

Do you like the occasional articles on labour history - such as on May Day, labour humour?

Are there any other types of material you think should be covered (or covered better) by the Newsletter?

We have attempted to respond to criticisms and suggestions from the last Newsletter evaluation by providing more material on Executive doings, better background for general meetings, more labour news from other sectors, and more FSA committee reports.

Has the Newsletter been better or worse than last year?

It would be nice if the Newsletter served as a forum for FSA members. Why have you never written anything for the Newsletter?

Other comments?

Please send to Abbotsford FSA Office, Communications Chair. Thank you.